



Honorable Ron Barber of Arizona

**Congressional Recognition for Richard White
American Red Cross, Southern Arizona Chapter**

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Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard White, regional Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross, Southern Arizona Chapter upon his retirement after 14 years of service.

Richard came to the local chapter of the Red Cross in 2000 after nine years with the United Way of Tucson and immediately made an impact on the success of the entire organization. When the tragic events of September 11, 2001 happened in New York City, Richard provided his expertise in communications and emergency management. He also was instrumental in improving the financial standing of the local chapter of the Red Cross.

The local Red Cross chapter serves 23,000 square miles in five Arizona counties – Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Graham and Greenlee. It also serves three Native American reservations – Tohono O’odham, San Carlos Apache and Pascua Yaqui nations. The chapter responds to a local emergency nearly every 46 hours; serves more than 700 displaced people, most of them children, and their pets annually; trains more than 24,000 people annually in lifesaving skills; and assists nearly 1,000 refugees each year.

Under Richard’s leadership, the local chapter also has successfully organized itself to be a significant resource for the many armed forces and veterans in my district and across Southern Arizona by providing crisis intervention, referral and direct assistance programs. Recently, the Veterans Administration awarded the Southern Arizona Chapter a \$1 million Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant to provide benefits to very low-income veteran families living in — or transitioning to — permanent housing. The range of services offered under the grant include financial assistance on behalf of veterans for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs, as well as other services in the community.

In 2010, when the Southern Arizona Chapter moved into its new offices, Richard took the initiative to go “green” by incorporating solar power and was the first American Red Cross chapter nationally to do so. They currently generate approximately 80 percent of their energy needs from a 40 KW solar array saving approximately \$160,000 in operating costs annually.

We will miss Richard’s commitment and dedication, but know he has helped form a Red Cross chapter that is ready and able to respond to any emergency or community need.